

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1214
27 August 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Secretary-General, in London, announces plan to enlarge mandate and strength of United Nations Protection Force to enable it to provide support to UNHCR-organized humanitarian relief convoys throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- + Concluding second day of London Conference on former Yugoslavia, Secretary-General and British Prime Minister announce establishment of high-level steering committee which will meet 3 September in Geneva to maintain "momentum in favour of peace".
- + Russia informs Security Council that it will support "all necessary means against Iraq" to ensure implementation of United Nations decisions on post-crisis settlement in Persian Gulf.

* * *

A detailed plan for the protection of humanitarian relief convoys throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently being prepared by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in consultation with his staff and a number of Governments.

According to a statement by the Secretary-General's Spokesman made at press conference in London today, the Secretary-General intends to submit a report to the Security Council next week recommending that the mandate and strength of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) be enlarged to enable it to assist convoys organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which provide food and essential supplies in all parts of the Republic. UNPROFOR would implement this new mandate in accordance with the established principles and practices of United Nations peace-keeping.

The statement said discussions were continuing with a number of Member States who had expressed readiness to contribute military personnel, equipment and logistic support for the expansion of UNPROFOR operations. The Secretary-General is asking Member States to provide such contributions at no cost to the United Nations.

(more)

Also present at the press conference in London, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Marrack Goulding, told correspondents that the enlargement of UNPROFOR could not be interpreted as "military intervention". It was merely a protection of UNHCR convoys in conformity with the Security Council's resolution 770 (1992). The number of troops envisaged for this function would be "substantial", Mr. Goulding added; he was unable however to provide specific numbers at this time.

Asked about offers by the United Kingdom and France to contribute 1,800 and 1,100 troops, respectively, and similar offers from Spain and Canada, the Under-Secretary-General said those offers would be tailored to the needs of the new Force.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the press today in London at the end of the second day of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, that the Conference had created "a new momentum in favour of peace". In order to maintain that momentum, he said, the Conference would "remain in being until a final settlement of the Yugoslav problem " had been found.

In addition, a high-level steering committee had been set up under the joint chairmanship of the Representative of the Secretary-General, Cyrus Vance, and the representative of the European Community, David Owen. The Committee, which will meet on 3 September in Geneva, would be composed by representatives of the European Community (EC), the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the five Permanent Members of the Security Council, and neighbouring countries to former Yugoslavia, as well as a representative of the Islamic Conference. Six working groups had also been established to deal with issues including Bosnia and Herzegovina; humanitarian relief assistance; nationality and minority; succession; economic issues; confidence and security-building measure.

In his statement to the press, British Prime Minister John Major said he believed the Conference had, over the last few days, "achieved significant results". The first result, he said, was the new negotiations for a settlement, beginning in Geneva next week, under the chairmanship of the United Nations and the European Community. The talks would be on the basis of clear principles to which all participants, without exception, had subscribed. That meant, he said, that "the Yugoslav parties have pledged themselves before the rest of the world to a code of conduct".

* * *

Russia has informed the Security Council that it will support "all necessary means against Iraq" to ensure implementation of the United Nations decisions on post-crisis settlement in the Persian Gulf.

In a statement transmitted through a letter to the Council President, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation said the refusal of the

(more)

Government of Iraq "conscientiously and fully to discharge its obligations" under the Council's resolutions constituted a "serious threat to the security of a region directly adjacent to Russia's southern borders".

Baghdad was "waging war against its own people in the south and maintaining an economic blockade of the northern regions of Iraq", the statement said. The Iraqi Government was refusing to cooperate with the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission and was blocking efforts of the United Nations to provide humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people.

In addition, "anti-United Nations hysteria" was being deliberately stirred up in the country, "sometimes to the point of open threats against the personal safety of United Nations inspectors", the statement said.
Document S/24483.

* * * * *